

The Cheerful Letter

EVERY PLACE A CHURCH; EVERY DAY THE LORD'S DAY; ALL EVENTS BLESSINGS; ALL JOY
THANKSGIVING; AND ALL NATURE AND LIFE FULL OF GOD.—James Freeman Clarke.

VOL. XXX.

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No. 12

THE CHEERFUL LETTER.

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THERE'S BUT ONE WAY.

There's just one gift that all our dead desire,
One gift that men can give, and that's a
dream

Unless we, too, can burn with that same fire
Of sacrifice; die to the things that seem;
Die to the little hatreds; die to greed;
Die to the old ignoble selves we knew;
Die to the base contempt of sect and creed
And rise again, like these, with souls as
true.

Nay (since they died before their task was
finished),

Attempt new heights, bring even their
dreams to birth;

Build us that better world, O, not diminished
By one true splendor that they planned on
earth.

And that's not done by sword, or tongue, or
pen—

There's but one way. God make us better
men.

—Alfred Noyes.

I expect to pass through this world but
once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I
can show, or any good thing I can do to any
fellow-being, let me do it now. Let me not
defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way
again.

MERCY AND FORGIVENESS.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."
MATTHEW V. 7.

To be merciful is not to do an act of mercy
here and there; to be swept away on impulse
into the forgiveness of a wrong; to be pitiful
on Monday and hard on Tuesday; to forget
you have been injured, and then, in moments
of irritation, to remember it again and speak
again the bitter word. That is not to be
merciful! No,—to be truly merciful is to
have the temper all through life which is
pitiful of wrong and forgiving of injury;
which, having once forgiven the injury,
forgets it.

Mercifulness is a quality which creates in
the soul a certain tender, gracious atmos-
phere in which the whole man lives and
breathes. And those are blest who have it.

And, more, it blesses those to whom it is
given. Those who receive of this quality
are themselves softened, sweetened, made
happier,—but how, they cannot always tell.
A wonderful thing happens. The unmerciful,
having received mercy, become themselves
merciful, pitiful, and loving; for mercy blesses
those who take it.

It is a virtue which some have naturally;
it is born with them; they are unconscious
of it. But the time comes when life, as it
passes by, brings with it many wrongs, many
injurious words, bitter things, cruelties,
which those who are by nature merciful have
to meet. They are now made conscious of
their mercy, and are bound to cherish it, to
watch over it, lest it should lose its readiness,
its swift frankness of forgiveness. If you are
merciful by nature, take care that no trial,
no wrong, no cruelty, spoil the blessed gift
within you.

There are others who do not possess this
quality in this way, and who have a hard
battle to win it. They are naturally hard,
unforgiving, fond of vengeance. Some, alas,
fall headlong into this dreadful condition;
vengeance is so sweet a morsel to them, and
their own self-will so strong! But unless
they wish to lose all chance of having this
beautiful thing within them, they had better
begin as early in life as possible to win some
steps towards it. The sooner they begin,
the swifter will be their attainment. Practice

in mercy alone make merciful. No admiration of it in others, no mere sentiment about it will bring you an inch nearer to it without the doing of it. But one act of mercy will set you on the right path, and a beginning is half the battle.

Let those of you who are fond of revenging an angry speech by one still more bitter, kill the angry answer on the lip and give back a soft one. Let those who have the wish to give two blows for one, give none. Let those who are injured ask themselves, before they condemn the injurer, what possible excuses there may be to lessen the guilt, and, while they ask, hush the unforgiving cry within them. Then something has begun within them which will end in blessedness. They will have touched a spring within their heart, whose waters will flow forth to fertilize, to sweeten, to adorn the fields of the heart. They will conquer the old; and the new will make them blessed.—*Stopford A. Brooke.*

FATHER'S OWN COLUMN.

AIR FLIGHTS OVER THE OCEANS.

The following notes, taken from a recent daily newspaper, sound almost like fairy-tales, though really the soberest fact. We grown-up people appreciate better what the statements mean, if we borrow some boy's school geography and refresh our memory of the exact location of each place that is mentioned.

Two Portuguese naval aviators in a hydro-airplane have undertaken to fly the Atlantic from Lisbon to the nearest city in Brazil. The distance is between 3,000 and 4,000 miles. They have covered safely the first hop of 700 miles to the Canary Islands, travelling at the rate of 90 miles an hour. The next jump will be 900 miles to the Cape Verde group. Then comes the great leap, either of 1,300 miles to the lonely island of Fernando Noronha, or of 1,600 miles to the nearest mainland, with Pernambuco as their destination. It is a risky venture. Portugal has sent three warships into the Atlantic to render possible aid. But the final hop has been exceeded only a few times as yet in the history of aviation.

America set the pace with the first trans-ocean flight in 1919, when a Curtis flying boat went from Long Island to Newfoundland thence to the Azores, and so on to Portugal and England, in all 3,936 miles. More spectacular was the non-stop flight in the same year from Newfoundland to Ireland, making the Atlantic in one jump of 1,936 miles in sixteen hours and twelve minutes. A greater feat

followed in the same year, the flight from England to Australia, by which Capt. Ross Smith and his three companions won the Australian Government's prize of \$50,000 for the first aviators who would make the voyage within thirty days' time. They left England, sailed over the Mediterranean, and, by way of Egypt and West Java, reached Port Darwin inside the limit.

And greater things still are planned. Americans hope to score the longest leap of all by a flight over the Pacific to Hawaii, and Great Britain is discussing a mail and passenger service between England, India, and Australia.

SOME OF THE MAY BIRTHDAYS.

May 21, 1780, brought a little girl, Elizabeth Gurney Fry, who was destined to bring about a vast difference in the safety and happiness of people, not only in her native England, but in our country too. In her time English laws were unreasonably severe and court sentences needlessly cruel; prisons were places of hopeless misery and suffering such as could not possibly make any bad person better. She was one of the very few persons in that time who realized that a law-breaker should not simply be made to suffer, but should also be helped to change into a useful citizen. She devoted years of her own life to work among the wretched people in the jails, trying to wake up the better possibilities in them and make them morally healthy instead of sick. Whatever our own modern reformatories succeed in doing along this line is partly due to that first work accomplished through Elizabeth Fry's Christian common sense.

May 27, 1265, more than six hundred years ago, was the birthday of an Italian boy, Dante Alighieri, who became one of the finest patriots and poets of all time. Not in Italy alone, but in all civilized lands today, people's thoughts about life and death have been more or less shaped (whether we are conscious of it or not) by the ideas which Dante put into his chief work, a long poem in Italian, called the *Divina Commedia*. For ever since his time other writers have been influenced by his wonderful insight into the truths of human experience. In that poem he made it clear how evil thinking and evil doing drag the soul down farther and farther; and how, through painful self-command and struggle,

we must labor to throw off our hindering faults and sins, if we would become gradually more fit for the happiness of Paradise.

May 28, 1807, Louis Agassiz was born in Switzerland. Later he came over to this country and became a famous professor of natural science in an American university. He travelled widely and learned by personal study a great deal that nobody had ever before known about the life of creatures living in the sea. He made patiently close study too of glaciers,—those wonderful ice-sheets found on the shoulders and breasts of high mountains in various parts of the world; and he set other people to studying them. The result is that we now understand something of the marvellous way in which God is still shaping His world on which we live,—shaping it with the tools of sliding ice and running water,—and making the earth's surface continually into material for the food of plants and so for the food of man. He helped all the rest of us to see just a little bit better *how* the hand of God works and is still working on the world which is our home.

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE CLUB.

Send all offers and requests for this department to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass., Tel. Quincy 1140.

Please remember, when you see a request for a book in the Book Club, to write a card to Mrs. Nichols, asking "*Shall I send such a book to such a person?*" before sending it, else the person who requests it may receive several copies. When any one writes directly to you, asking for a book offered by you, send a card to Mrs. Nichols, saying that you *have* sent it. When you receive more requests than you can meet, send these to the Book Club to be printed here.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

It will greatly aid those who are sending books, magazines, cards, and so forth, if all our correspondents who send requests for their children will take pains to mention their names and ages. Lacking such information, one is likely to make mistakes; for a boy of twelve and a girl of seven are not usually interested in the same things or benefited by the same things.

When requesting books for the first time, correspondents should always give, as reference, the name and address of their clergyman.

It is necessary that letters shall be written with ink, not simply with a pencil.

OFFERS.

For the following books apply to Mrs. Harriet T. Boyd, 17 Marsh Street, Dedham, Mass. *Books in German:* "Der Kleine Lord" (Little Lord Fauntleroy), Burnett; First German Reader, Martini; Märchen und Erzählungen (a reader), Guerber; Brief German Grammar, Whitney; "Prinzessin Ilse." *Books in French:* "Marianne," Sand; "Picciola," Saintine; "Colomba," Merimée; "Le Nabab," Daudet; "Les Précieuses Ridicules," Molière.

The Cambridge Branch offers the following. Address Mrs. Henry R. Bowser, 36 Lancaster Street, Cambridge 40, Mass. "Palamon and Arcite," Dryden (school edition with notes); "Nature Addresses and Lectures," Emerson; Life of Samuel Johnson, Macaulay; Poetical Works, Thomas Moore; "Tales of Chivalry," Sir Walter Scott (edited by Rolfe); "English Political Orations," Wentworth-Macaulay; "Essays on Puritanism," Andrew MacPhail; "Discourses," E. H. Hall; "Essays of Elia," Lamb; "Famous Women,—Mary Lamb"; Poetical Works, Campbell; "Shakespeare Glossary and Grammar for Students," Fletcher; "The New Creation" (religious); "Memoirs and Memorials," Clay MacCauley; "The Genuineness of the Gospels" (2 vols.), Norton; "The Lay of the Bell," Schiller (translation by Bulwer Lytton, with Carlyle's Essay on Schiller); Hymn-Books; History of the United States; "Past and Present," Carlyle.

REQUESTS.

1. I would be so glad if I could get some good books to read. Any amount of good reading would be appreciated. Miss Florence Cooper, Trevilians, Louisa County, Virginia.

2. I have been married seven months and am keeping house. I would be glad of good books and magazines, as I enjoy reading very much. Mrs. Addie M. Brown, Pleasant View, Virginia.

3. My mother died last May, and just three weeks later my oldest brother died, so I am left with the care of two little brothers, aged nine and six, and a baby sister, aged three. I am not strong; the doctors say I have tuberculosis. My father has to work away from home most of the time, and we are moving to a new place among strangers, where I shall feel very lonely. I hope the ladies will send me some kind of cheer. I would be thankful for picture-books and cards and anything for my little brothers and

sister. The oldest boy is almost deaf. They have had very little schooling, so cannot read. Miss Dovie Wright, Bassett, Virginia.

4. It has been some time since I heard from any of the Cheerful Letter friends. I should like to get some reading. I have six children,—four girls and two boys. One of the girls stuck a nail in her foot and can't walk on it, and the oldest boy got his leg sprained mighty bad. I hope some of the friends can help me. Mrs. W. A. Foley, Bassett, Virginia, Route 3.

5. I would be glad to get some books and magazines to help pass some of my time. I have one little boy, aged five months. I would like to correspond with some of the Cheerful Letter friends. Mrs. Vadie M. Foley, Stuart, Virginia, Route 4.

6. I wish to express my thanks for the books, cards, and magazines that were sent me. I appreciated everything that I received. I would be glad to have the *Pictorial Review* for 1922, after some one else is through with it. If any of the Cheerful Letter friends have embroidery designs to spare, such as centre-pieces, sheets, and bed-spreads, I should like to receive them; I would return them after tracing, if that is desired. Miss Mary Blanton, Wallace, North Carolina, Route 1, Box 110.

7. I would like to be on the *Cheerful Letter* list. Would appreciate getting the *Woman's Home Companion* or some reading; we do not live close to any library. Mrs. J. F. Payne, Tryon, Nebraska.

8. I am a widow fifty-three years old. I had five children, but all have married and left me except one boy, thirteen years old. My health is very bad; I am sad and lonely. I would be so glad if the Cheerful Letter friends would send me some good reading, and cards, to amuse and help my boy. At times my trouble and sickness seem almost more than I can bear. God bless the Cheerful Letter workers is my prayer! Mrs. Vick Dillon, Campbell, North Carolina, Route 1.

9. I wish to thank *The Cheerful Letter* for the beautiful cards and pictures sent to my boys, also for the reading matter for myself and my husband. We like very much to read, and appreciate good books. I would especially like "The Opening of a Chestnut Burr." Mrs. Bessie Hartzog, Applegate, North Carolina.

10. I would like very much to receive *Munsey's Magazine*, beginning with January, 1922, if some one has it to pass along; would you please print my request? My sincerest thanks for favors of the past. Mrs. R. A. Baird, Lenoir, North Carolina, Route 3, Box 199.

11. I am a schoolgirl of fifteen, asking for books of any kind,—standard novels or school-books. I live two miles from church and eight miles from the nearest town. I would like to correspond with some Northern people. Ethel Morrison, Buffalo Ridge, Virginia.

12. I shall be very glad to have the "Twentieth Century Book of Facts," and thank you in advance. I like *The Cheerful Letter* very much, and can speak praises of this organization that is so kind to help the unfortunate. Miss Ellie Nolen, Elamsville, Virginia. Box 8.

13. Mrs. Mary McGehee, Vulcan, Orange County, Virginia, asks for reading for herself and a girl of thirteen.

14. "Recreations in Astronomy" is asked for by A. C. Anderson, Mocksville, North Carolina, Route 5, Box 26; also the "Classic French Course in English."

15. As I am lonely, I would appreciate receiving letters and reading matter. Would like to correspond with some of the Cheerful Letter friends. Miss Alice M. Turner, Stuart, Virginia, Route 5.

16. I desire books written for Boy Scouts or about adventures, the *Geographical Magazine* or Boy Scouts' magazines. Squire Grayheal, Ashland, North Carolina.

17. We are two little girls aged nine and twelve; we would appreciate any kind of story or picture books, and would be thankful for post-cards. Lelia and Thelma Hollandsworth, care of J. H. Hollandsworth, Bassett, Virginia.

18. I would like very much to receive books and papers. My father has been dead a long time, ever since I was quite small. I am eleven years old and in the sixth grade. I would like to correspond with some girl my age. Katie McEvoy, Athens, Texas, Route 1, Box 51.

19. I am a schoolgirl thirteen years old. I would be glad to receive reading matter suitable for a girl of my age. I have a brother

who would love to have Webster's Dictionary. Virginia Ashley, Bina, North Carolina.

20. Mrs. J. L. Edwards, Farmville, Virginia, Route 1, Box 76, a widow with two sons, fourteen and eleven, would like suitable reading.

21. Miss Ada Epperly, Floyd, Virginia, Route 5, Box 20, living in the country, asks for reading for herself and her mother.

22. Mrs. Rosa Jones, Warrensville, North Carolina, asks for books for her children,—six of them, aged two to fifteen years.

23. Mrs. Grant Johnston, Stock Yards Station, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, would like to get the April number of the *Ladies' Home Journal* for 1920.

24. Mr. J. T. Boyd, Floyd, Virginia, will be glad to have magazines or stories.

25. Mrs. W. Percy Lackey, Timber Ridge, Virginia, would be glad of good reading, as she is unable to work; lives on a farm; has a family of nine,—six children and an aged grandfather.

26. The *Youth's Companion* and stories will be welcomed by Mrs. Laura Gibson, Malakoff, Texas, Route 2, Box 131.

27. Mrs. Evie Bell, Pluck, Texas, will be glad of any reading.

28. Arthur Rose, Park, Virginia, asks for any of Zane Grey's or Georgie Sheldon's books.

29. Light reading is asked for by Mrs. B. B. Ross, Grant, Virginia, Route 1, for herself and her husband; he is a cripple, sixty-eight years of age.

30. Rev. C. W. Johnson, Ben Hur, Arkansas, asks for the *American* and the *Journal of Education*.

31. Miss Alta Kennedy, Oakboro, North Carolina, would like a book on etiquette.

32. Mrs. Ida Roland, Clifton, North Carolina, the mother of five children, would like cards and pictures.

33. Miss Pattie Jefferson, Elamsville, Virginia, has been sick for quite a while,—a shut-in; her home is in the mountains of Patrick County, where it is very lonely. She

would appreciate *The Cheerful Letter* after it has been read by others, and also personal letters.

34. I live in a new town. Would like to receive some good reading, and to get the *Ladies' Home Journal* after some one else is through with it, or *McCall's Magazine*, if not asking too much. I have two children, a boy of five years and a girl of two. My boy, Ellwood, is beginning to read and write a little and likes to draw. He would enjoy picture-books and drawing-books. I would like to correspond with some *Cheerful Letter* friend. Mrs. E. H. Mullins, Fieldale, Virginia, Box 309.

35. This is my first letter to the paper. I am fifty-two years old. My father and mother are dead; I live alone in the country and seldom see any one. If you dear people only knew how lonesome and discouraged I am, you would write me. I enjoy reading and piecing quilts. For reference I send the name of Rev. J. B. Roberson, Dodson, Virginia. Miss Fannie Wright, care of W. A. Via, Dodson, Virginia.

36. Mrs. Sallie R. Ward, Stevenson, Alabama, suffering from a cancer, will be glad of light reading.

37. Miss A. L. Phillips, Newtown, Virginia, asks for magazines.

38. Scraps for making patchwork quilts are asked for by all the following:—

Mrs. Addie M. Brown, Pleasant View, Virginia.

Miss Lucy Foley, Bassett, Virginia, Route 3.
Mrs. Laura Gibson, Malakoff, Texas, Route 2, Box 131.

Miss Gladys V. Turner, Woolwine, Virginia, Route 1 (care of Mrs. Nannie J. Turner).
Mrs. J. P. Puett, Lenoir, North Carolina.

Mrs. John Tarlton, Marshville, North Carolina, Route 4, Box 170.

Mrs. James Martin, Marshville, North Carolina, Route 5.

Mrs. B. B. Ross, Grant, Virginia, Route 1, Box 13.

Mrs. J. L. Edwards, Farmville, Virginia, Route 1, Box 76.

Mrs. S. M. Brooks, Wadesboro, North Carolina, Route 1, Box 83.

Miss Fannie Wright, care of W. A. Via, Dodson, Virginia.

Miss Verna Thornton, Pera, Virginia.

Mrs. Mary A. Boyd, Decatur, Tennessee, Route 4.

Mrs. Vick Dillon, Campbell, North Carolina,
Route 1.
Mrs. Mary J. Roberson, Elamsville, Virginia,
Box 22.
Mrs. W. E. Rakes, Endicott, Virginia,
R. F. D.
Virginia Ashley, Bina, North Carolina.
Miss Mary Blanton, Wallace, North Caro-
lina, Route 1, Box 110.
Katie McEvoy, Athens, Texas, Route 1,
Box 51.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Mrs. Thomas Lacey, 35 East 30th Street, New York City, will be very glad of offers of books of instruction on piano and organ, also simple music. These are for use by the Music Committee. Please take notice, and remember Mrs. Lacey's request.

THE MOTHERS' COUNCIL.

THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE CHILD.

The practice of the presence of God is the ideal atmosphere for the development of the child nature. And the relations with God which we find mirrored in the Old Testament stories are the relations of a *child people* with their Heavenly Father. They appeal to the child.

The highest use of all literature is not to fill us with facts, but to set us to thinking. We teach children history, not so much in order that they may know and remember things that have happened, as that they may understand life, and how to meet it. We repeat poetry to the little ones, and tell them fairy-tales, not merely to amuse them, nor as an exercise for the memory, but as a stimulus to the imagination and to the sense of beauty. The Old Testament stories serve both these purposes. The perpetual splendor of sentences in the Old Testament, the lofty sublimity of its suggestions, appeal as no other literature does.

Especially appealing is the freshness of feeling that characterizes the Old Testament poetry. Not only does the little child love rhythm and the balance of measured utterance (so that it is not in the least necessary that he should understand a poem or a bit of doggerel in order to delight in it); it is also true that the child rejoices in poetic forms of utterance, in figures of speech, and in the play of imagination. In this respect the Old Testament is peculiarly the little child's book. For example, where the Old Testament would refer to great trees, trees whose size was notable, it calls them "trees of God." Our

giant redwoods in California would surely be "trees of God" to the mind of the old Hebrew and no other expression would so well satisfy a child's sense of awe in seeing such trees.

So with the mighty voice of the thunder. There was no attempt at scientific explanation, but the true poetic instinct which impelled the psalmist to call thunder "the voice of Jehovah."

The voice of Jehovah is upon the waters,
The God of glory thundereth,
Even Jehovah upon many waters.
The voice of Jehovah is powerful,
The voice of Jehovah is full of majesty.

In the beginning it is not necessary to interpret the Old Testament stories to little children. All the mother has to do is to tell them, *as nearly as possible in the very words in which they are written*, preserving, as far as one may, the grand, quaint, old-fashioned simplicity of the Bible language, seeking as far as possible to fill the child with the spirit of the great men of whom the stories tell, and the atmosphere of the old Book. . . . Repeat the lines, and let the child revel in them, pouring into them such meaning as his own heart supplies. We do not give children the dictionary definitions of the words with which we teach them to talk. We simply say them often, and the child gives them a meaning.

The Bible story is particularly valuable because it makes truth attractive. The truth, for example, that no pagan is necessarily excluded from the household of God, is not particularly interesting; but embodied in the story of Ruth, and how beautiful, picturesque, poetic, pathetic, and dignified a truth it becomes! The story of Cain and Abel is worth a volume on the sin of murder. The power of man with God is a spiritual truth of unfathomable depth, but no philosopher ever lived who will put it more intelligibly and forcibly than it was put ages ago, in the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel at the brook Jabbok, a story which the youngest child will delight to hear and to think about.—*Louis Seymour Houghton in "Telling Bible Stories."*

THE AMUSEMENT CORNER.

(Address everything relating to the Amusement Corner to Mr. Henry A. Jenks, 1923 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 40, Mass.) Contributors are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Write name and address plainly (not necessarily for publication), and send the answers to the puzzles on a separate slip of paper.)

1.

WENDELL HOLMES'S RIDDLE.

My name declares my date to be
 The morning of a Christian year;
 Though motherless, as all agree,
 I am a mother, it is clear;
 A father too, without dispute;
 And, when my son comes, he's a fruit;
 And not to trouble you too much,
 'Twas I gave Holland to the Dutch.

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

2.

HALF SQUARE.

1. Distinguished food.
2. A part in music.
3. A lowly home.
4. A preposition.
5. A letter.

Answers to puzzles in the April number.

1. LABYRINTH OF LETTERS: Begin with the C in the third line, read up one letter to H, right to A, down through R to L in the lowest line, right to E, up one to S (*Charles*), up one to E (*E.*), right one to H, down through U to G in lowest line, right through H and E, up one to S (*Hughes*); next, left one to H, up one to E, right one to N, up one to R, left one to Y (*Henry*), left through C, A, B, O, T (*Cabot*), down one to L, left one to O, up one to D, left through G and E (*Lodge*); now, left one to O, down one to S, right through C and A, down one to R (*Oscar*), left one to W (*W.*), left one to U, down one to N, right through D, E, and R, up one to W, right one to O, down one to O, and right one to D (*Underwood*).

2. CONCEALED GEOGRAPHY: 1. Erie. 2. Amherst. 3. Hartford. 4. Dover. 5. Boston.

CHILDREN'S CLASSICS.

ROBINSON CRUSOE ON THE ISLAND.

Two hundred years ago our English ancestors were reading with great delight a new book, and talking about it with their neighbors,—“*The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*,” by Daniel Defoe. Ever since it was printed in London people have read it eagerly,—all sorts of people, but especially men and boys. The hero escaped from a shipwreck to a strange island where there was no other human being.

When Crusoe had lived alone for about a year on his island, he found that the clothes which he had worn when his ship went down were so ragged that they could not longer serve him; he had to have something new. And this is the way he managed. He says:—

I had saved the skins of all the creatures that I had killed, and had hung them up, stretched out with sticks, in the sun. Some of them were so dry and hard that they were fit for little, but others were very useful. The first thing that I made of these was a great cap for my head, with the hair on the outside to shoot off the rain; after this I made a suit of clothes wholly of these skins, that is to say, a waistcoat and breeches open at the knees, and both loose. They were wretchedly made, but if it happened to rain, the hair of the waistcoat and cap being outmost, I was kept dry. After this I spent great time and pains to make me an umbrella. At last I made one covered with skins, the hair upwards, so that it kept off the sun so effectually that I could walk out in the hottest of the weather.

I had a broad belt of goat-skin, dried, which I drew together with two thongs of the same instead of buckles; and in a kind of frog on either side of this hung a little saw and hatchet, one on one side and one on the other. I had another belt, not so broad, but made in the same manner, which hung over my shoulder; at the end of it, under my left arm, hung two pouches, both made of goat-skin, in one of which hung my powder, in the other my shot. On my shoulder I carried my gun, and over my head the goat-skin umbrella.

One day something happened which amazed and puzzled the lonely islander. It was after he had lived for several years quite by himself on the strange island, without seeing or hearing any sign of any other human being. His story goes on:—

It happened one day, going towards my boat, I was exceedingly surprised with the print of a man's naked foot on the shore, which was very plain to be seen in the sand. I stood like one thunderstruck. I listened. I looked around me; I could hear nothing nor see anything. I went up to a rising ground to look farther; I went up the shore and down the shore. I could see no other impression but that one. I went to it again, to observe if it might not be my fancy,—but there was exactly the print of a foot,—toes, heel and every part. How it came thither I knew not nor could in the least imagine!

It was not until sometime later Crusoe learned that savages of the most cruel sort had visited the island in canoes. Then, one day, he saw them plainly, and found they were about to kill a prisoner whom they had brought with them. He determined to rescue the prisoner, so he shot the others who were chasing him. Then the man whose life he had saved hardly knew what to think of Crusoe, whether to trust him or to be afraid. The story-teller says:—

The poor savage who fled was so frightened that he stood stock-still, and neither came forward nor went backward. I halloed to him, and made signs to come forward, which he understood. He came a little way, then stopped again, then came farther, and stopped again; he stood trembling. I beckoned to him again to come to me, and he came nearer and nearer, kneeling down every ten or twelve steps in token of acknowledgment for saving his life. At length he came close to me and laid his head upon the ground. I took him up and made much of

him, and encouraged him all I could. He spoke some words to me, and, though I could not understand them, yet they were pleasant to hear, for they were the first sound of a man's voice that I had heard for five-and-twenty years!

Crusoe named the savage "Friday," because it was on a Friday that all this happened. The poor fellow was so grateful to his protector that he became the most devoted of servants and pupils, and the two lived together until, after long delays and strange adventures, both were rescued from the island by a passing ship, and Crusoe once more saw his native England.

THE CHEERFUL LETTER EXCHANGE.

ITS PURPOSE

To cheer and comfort those who are ill, lonely, or discouraged, through the exchange of letters, and by gifts of books and magazines.

To help those who live far from schools, or who wish to continue their studies by means of correspondence with a teacher.

To give to those living far from church some of the helps which churches give. One good sermon or similar article is printed in each number. These sermons are never doctrinal, but present only such simple religious truths and principles as are agreed on by all churches.

WHERE TO WRITE

1. *Letters paying for subscriptions to the paper*, fifty cents a year, should be sent to the Cheerful Letter Exchange, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass. Checks or postal orders should be made payable to the Cheerful Letter Exchange.

2. *Letters asking for correspondents, for books, magazines, cards, etc.*, also *letters offering to give books, magazines, etc.*, should be sent to Mrs. W. B. Nichols, 25 Fairmount Way, Quincy, Mass.

See special suggestions directly under the heading of the "Book and Magazine Club" in this number.

3. *Letters asking for help in studying at home* should be sent to Mrs. George G. Saville, 30 Woodward Avenue, Quincy, Mass.

The Home Study Committee has on hand a variety of schoolbooks which may be used by students either at home or in the schoolroom. The aim of the teachers is to help in any study where help is needed. Often this may fit a person for a higher grade of work.

4. *Letters asking for music and letters offering music* should be sent to Mrs. Thomas Lacey, 35 East 30th Street, New York City, or to All Souls Church, Fourth Avenue and 20th Street, New York City.

There is more and more interest in "community" or neighborhood singing.

5. *Letters about the establishment of Circulating Libraries* should be sent to Mrs. H. A. Stevens, 76 Edgemere Road, Quincy, Mass.

A Circulating Library will be started in any small community needing one, if proper location and care can be furnished and satisfactory references can be given. One hundred and four such libraries are now on our lists.

6. The Secretary of the Cheerful Letter Exchange, Mrs. Francis Hastings, Kendall Green, Mass., should receive the more general correspondence from workers on the local committees, or from others interested in the organization and its methods.

Notice to those who give:—

Only books of an instructive or wholesomely amusing character should be offered. Classics, educational works, and standard novels and magazines are always acceptable.

There is a large call for scraps of calico, gingham, and percale for patchwork.

To those who receive:—

It is a rule of the Cheerful Letter Exchange that no one ask for money or for clothing in the columns of this paper. The name of any person who fails to obey this rule will be dropped from our list. Any worker receiving such a request should send the letter at once to headquarters.